

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-13 ACDA-10 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CU-04 MCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06

CCO-00 EURE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

/109 W

-----041404Z 126726 /45

O R 041259Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1669

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 158

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: GENERAL STRIKE: SECOND DAY

REF: BELFAST 156

1. MORNING MAY 4 MORE WORKERS ATTEMPTED TO REACH WORK  
IN BELFAST THAN YESTERDAY BUT SUPPORTERS OF UNIONIST ACTION  
COUNCIL (UAC) STRIKE STEPPED UP PICKETING, ROAD-BLOCK  
ACTIVITIES AND HARASSMENT. FIRST SERIOUS CONFRONTATION  
CAME ON NEWTONARDS ROAD EAST BELFAST AS DEMONSTRATORS  
STOPPED BUSES AND STONED POLICE VEHICLE. WHEN SOME TWO-  
HUNDRED MEN ERECTED BARRICADE OF OIL DRUM ACROSS THIS  
MAIN ARTERY GIVING ACCESS TO HARLAND AND WOLFF SHIPYARD,  
POLICE MOVED IN AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH ARMY ASSISTANCE,  
CLEARED BARRICADE. ONE MAN ARRESTED BUT THERE NO RPT NO  
VIOLENCE. ANDY TYRIE, SUPREME COMMANDER OF ULSTER DEFENSE  
ASSOCIATION (UDA), WAS ON SCENE AND ADDRESSED HEATED WORDS  
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TO ARMY OFFICER. THERE MEETING OF UDA INNER COUNCIL SET FOR  
1400 LOCAL TIME TO DISCUSS ACTION IN CASE OF "CONTINUED ARMY  
PROVOCATION." STRIKE SUPPORTERS ARE ALSO BLOCKING MAIN ARTERY  
NEAR UNIVERSITY DISTRICT AND MORE MEN MOVING IN GROUPS  
OUTSIDE PROTESTANT AREAS THAN YESTERDAY. BUSES ARE OPERATING  
ON ONLY THREE ROUTES IN BELFAST AND THERE LESS MILK DELIVERIES  
THAN YESTERDAY ALTHOUGH BREAD IS BEING DELIVERED FREELY TODAY.

PATTERN OF SHOPS OPEN OR SHUT IS MUCH THE SAME AS YESTERDAY. UAC HAS CALLED FOR SHOPS TO OPEN BETWEEN 1400 AND 1800 LOCAL. SCHOOLS ARE ALMOST BACK TO NORMAL WITH CLARIFICATION BY IAN PAISLEY THAT UAC HAD CAUTIONED PARENTS BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ARMY INTENTIONS ON FIRST DAY OF STRIKE. SHIPYARD DAY FORCE IS WORKING AT REDUCED STRENGTH BUT ALMOST ALL NIGHT SHIFT (400) HAVE REQUESTED TRANSFER TO DAY SHIFT. PORT OF LARNE REMAINS CLOSED AND THIS POTENTIALLY QUITE SERIOUS FOR INDUSTRY SINCE ABOUT 25 PER CENT OF PROVINCE'S RAW MATERIALS AND FINISHED PRODUCTS MOVE THROUGH PORT. GASOLINE DELIVERIES TO STATIONS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TODAY. ONE AMERICAN FIRM, MONSANTO IN COLERAINE, IS CLOSING. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT SOME ELECTRICITY WORKERS ARE STAYING AWAY FROM JOB BUT NO HARD FACTS OR FIGURES.

2. FIRST DAY OF STRIKE (YESRDAY) WAS MARKED BY CHARGES OF INTIMIDATION AGAINST SUPPORTERS AND DENIALS OF INTIMIDATION BY UAC LEADERS. THERE SOME 400 REPORTS OF INTIMIDATION RECEIVED BY POLICE AND 30 BY BBC. MANY OF THE REPORTS TO POLICE WERE IN ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS. THERE WAS CERTAINLY OVERT INTIMIDATION AT ONE DAIRY IN DUNGANNON WHERE TWO MEN WITH GUNS CAUSED CLOSURE. SEVEN ARRESTS WERE MADE YESTERDAY FOR INTIMIDATION. IAN PAISLEY CALLED CHARGES OF INTIMIDATION "LIES" AND SAID IF THEY WERE ACCURATE THEN ENTIRE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY WAS DERELICT IN ITS DUTY. BELFAST TELEGRAPH WAS PRINTED YESTERDAY BUT NOT DISTRIBUTED. MANAGING DIRECTOR LAID IT TO INTIMIDATION. UAC LEADERS HAVE SAID HOWEVER NEWSPAPERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PRINTED TO KEEP PEOPLE INFORMED. RAILROAD SERVICE WAS SHARPLY CURTAILED FROM EARLY AFTERNOON AS SIGNALMEN QUIT WORK AND LAST TRAIN OF DAY TO DUBLIN DID NOT GO. FARMERS JOINED PROTEST IN AT LEAST

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THREE AREAS BY BLOCKING ROADS WITH TRACTORS AND FALLEN TREES AND TELEPHONE POLES. POLICE WERE FULLY EXTENDED WITH ENTIRE DETECTIVE FORCE PURSUING COMPLAINTS OF INTIMIDATION. IT APPARENT HOWEVER THAT DESPITE CHARGES OF INTIMIDATION CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT BEING EXERCISED. NO VEHICLES WERE HI-JACKED AND THERE ONLY ONE REPORT OF PHYSICAL ABUSE. MORE TROOPS (1ST ROYAL REGIMENT FUSILIERS) WERE FLOWN IN SECRETLY AND THERE NOW ABOUT 17000 IN PROVINCE, MORE THAN DURING 1974 STOPPAGE. MOST MEDIA REPORTED LATE MAY 3 THAT GOVERNMENT CONCERNED BY TWO REPORTS: (A) THAT LOYALISTS PREPARED TO SET UP PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN UDI SITUATION AND, (B) THAT PROVISIONAL IRA PREPARED TO USE DISRUPTION AS OPPORTUNITY FOR RENEWED CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMY.

3. SO FAR, WITH EXCEPTION STATEMENT THAT ARMY COULD NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES (REFTEL, GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN PRUDENT, TIMELY AND GENERALLY EFFECTIVE. CRITICAL PERIOD MAY BE TOMORROW OR EVEN LATER TODAY, ALTHOUGH NORMALLY, MOST SHOPS IN PROVINCE CLOSE ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS AND THERE LITTLE MOVEMENT. ONE PROMINENT OFFICIAL UNIONIST

CONFIDED TO REPORTING OFFICER HIS OPINION THAT IF STRIKE WERE TO  
CONTINUE THREE DAYS, OR IF LOYALISTS WERE ATTACKED, THEN ORANGE  
ORDER AND OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY WOULD SWING TO SUPPORT OF  
PROTEST.SPICER

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**TAGS:** PINT, UK, EI  
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**Type:** TE  
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